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16 LEATHA BARCELLOS: Thank you, Richard.

17 Good afternoon. As Richard said, my name is

18 Leatha Barcellos, and I'm here to read a statement into the

19 record from Senator Harry Reid.

20 Interested citizens of Nevada, I am here to

21 thank you and to challenge you. Thank you for taking the

22 time out of your busy schedules to come here to express

23 your views on the Department of Energy's plan to bring

24 high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. I challenge

25 you not to give up. Together we will fight to stop the

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1 shipment of nuclear waste and its disposal in Nevada.

2 We are at a very critical time in the

3 history of the Yucca Mountain project. The Department of

4 Energy is currently taking public comment on its

5 preliminary site suitability, evaluation, and plans to make

6 a site recommendation early next year.

7 In light of current events and the new world

8 in which we live, we must continue to rally against Yucca

9 Mountain. As you all know, its process is flawed. We do

10 not have a final environmental impact statement. We do not

11 have finalized Nuclear Regulatory and Department of Energy

12 citing regulations. In the coming weeks and months, the
13 fight over Yucca Mountain will necessarily focus on the
14 issue of nuclear waste and transportation.

15 I urge you and others who oppose Yucca
16 Mountain to take up the grave challenge of protecting
17 America from the unsafe shipment of deadly radioactive
18 waste. It is not necessary. It has not been proven safe.
19 It would be vulnerable to terrorist attack. It is a very
20 bad idea.

21 For those of you who are here today, thank
22 you again for your hard work in protecting the public
23 health and our fragile environment.

24 Thank you.